

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CANDIDATES NAMED FOR THIRTEEN OF CROATIA'S
SENIOR POSTS

SUMMARY: CANDIDATES FOR MAY ELECTION BY CROATIA'S NEW
ASSEMBLY TO 13 OF CROATIA'S SENIOR POSTS NAMED MARCH 6 BY
REPUBLIC'S "COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR PERSONNEL QUESTIONS".
ELEVEN OF 13 CANDIDATES ARE CROATS. ALL THIRTEEN WERE PARTISANS.
THEIR AVERAGE AGE OF OVER 55 UNDERLINES REMARKABLE DURABILITY
AND VITALITY OF PARTISAN MOVEMENT. CROATIA'S SENIOR PARTY
FIGURE, JOSIP BAKARIC, NOMINATED FOR CROATIA'S SEAT ON FEDERAL
PRESIDENCY. JOSIP VRHOVEC, NOW SECRETARY, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(EC) OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC) OF LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS CROATIA
(LCC) NOMINATED REPLACE IVO PERISIN AS PRESIDENT CROATIA'S
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. PERISIN IN TURN NAMED REPLACE JAKOV BLAZEVIC
AS PRESIDENT CROATIA'S ASSEMBLY. BLAZEVIC NOMINATED BECOME
FIRST PRESIDENT CROATIA'S NEW NINE-MAN PRESIDENCY. NOMINATION
OF CROATIA'S PARTY PRESIDENT MILKA PLANINC FOR SEAT ON CROATIA'S
PRESIDENCY WOULD APPEAR CONFIRM REPORTS SHE WILL CARRY ON AT
PARTY HELM AFTER APRIL PARTY CONGRESS, BECAUSE ONE SEAT DESIGNATED
EX OFFICIO FOR PRESIDENT CC OF LCC. NOMINATION OF VRHOVEC TO
HEAD CROATIA'S EXECUTIVE BRANCH REEMPHASIZES LEADING ROLE
PRESCRIBED FOR PARTY IN ALL ASPECTS REPUBLIC'S LIFE. FURTHER
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UNDERLINING LIKELIHOOD CONTINUITY WITHIN RANKS CROATIA'S

LEADERSHIP, LOCAL SOURCES PREDICT JURE BILIC WILL REMAIN IN CROATIA'S SEAT IN EXECUTIVE BUREAU (EB) LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS OF YUGOSLAVIA (LCY). END SUMMARY

1. ON MARCH 6, "COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR PERSONNEL QUESTIONS IN SOCIALIST REPUBLIC CROATIA" ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES FOR: CROATIA'S SEAT ON FEDERAL PRESIDENCY; CROATIA'S ANTICIPATED VICE PRESIDENCY OF FEDERAL ASSEMBLY; PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF CROATIA'S NEW NINE-MAN PRESIDENCY; PRESIDENT OF CROATIA'S ASSEMBLY; AND PRESIDENT OF CROATIA'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

2. FOR CROATIA'S SEAT ON FEDERAL PRESIDENCY; DR. VLADIMIR BAKARIC, 62, CROAT. BAKARIC, FROM ZAGREB, IS CROATIA'S SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURE. NOW MEMBER PRESIDUM LCY.

3. FOR CROATIA'S ANTICIPATED VICE PRESIDENCY OF FEDERAL ASSEMBLY; MARIJAN CVETKOVIC, 53, CROAT. CVETKOVIC, FROM SISAK (CROATIA PROPER), IS NOW PRESIDENT OF FEDERAL COMMITTEE OF FEDERAL ASSOCIATION OF FIGHTERS OF YUGOSLAVIA'S NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR.

4. FOR PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF CROATIA'S NEW PRESIDENCY (PRESIDENT PLUS EIGHT MEMBERS INCLUDING EX OFFICIO PRESIDENT CC OF LCC):

(A) AS PRESIDENT: JAKOV BLAZEVIC, 62, CROAT. BLAZEVIC, FROM GOSPIC (LIKA), IS PRESIDENT OF CROATIA'S ASSEMBLY.

(B) AS MEMBER EX OFFICIO: MILKA PLANINC, 50, FATHER SERB, MOTHER CROAT. MRS. PLANINC, FROM DRNIS (DALMATIA), IS PRESIDENT CC OF LCC.

(C) AS MEMBER: BORIS BAKRAC, 62, CROAT. BAKRAC, FROM SLAVONSKA POZJEGA (SLAVONIA), IS A VICE PRESIDENT OF CROATIA'S ASSEMBLY.

(D) AS MEMBER: MIRKO BOZIC, 55, CROAT. BOZIC, FROM SINJ (DALMATIA), IS A VICE PRESIDENT OF CROATIA'S ASSEMBLY.

(E) AS MEMBER: CEDO GRBIC, 53, POSSIBLY SERB. GRBIC, FROM NOVSKA (SLAVONIA), IS A VICE PRESIDENT OF CROATIA'S ASSEMBLY.

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(F) AS MEMBER: JOSIP HRNCEVIC, 72, CROAT. HRNCEVIC, FROM BJELOVAR (SLAVONIA), HAS HAD CAREER LARGELY RELATED TO JUDICIAL AFFAIRS. WAS FEDERAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR 1946 TO 1951 DURING PART OF WHICH PERIOD BLAZEVIC PROMINENT AS PUBLIC PROSECUTOR FOR CROATIA.

(G) AS MEMBER: VJEKOSLAV IVANCIC, 50, CROAT. FROM PAZIN (ISTRIA), IVANCIC HAS BEEN PROMINENT IN PARTY AND OTHER SOCIAL-POLITICAL

ORGANIZATIONS IN RIJEKA-ISTRIA AREA.

(H) AS MEMBER: ZVONKO JURISIC, 50, CROAT. JURISIC, FROM SIBENIK (DALMATIA), IS DEPUTY IN FEDERAL ASSEMBLY. HE HAS BEEN PROMINENT IN POLITICAL LIFE SPLIT-SIBENIK AREA.

(I) AS MEMBER: MILAN MISKOVIC, 56, CROAT. MISKOVIC, FROM SLAVONSKI BROD (SLAVONIA), IS MEMBER FEDERAL PRESIDENCY AND OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) OF CC OF LCC. HAS BACKGROUND CONNECTED WITH INTERNAL SECURITY AFFAIRS.

5. FOR PRESIDENT OF CROATIA'S ASSEMBLY: IVO PERISIN, 48, CROAT. DR. PERISIN, FROM SPLIT (DALMATIA), IS PRESIDENT OF CROATIA'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. HAS BEEN PROMINENT AS BANKER AND ECONOMIST.

6. FOR PRESIDENT OF CROATIA'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: JOSIP VRHOVEC, 48, CROAT. VRHOVEC, FROM ZAGREB, IS SECRETARY OF EC OF CC OF LCC. HE IS JOURNALIST BY PROFESSION.

7. COMMENT: THIRTEEN CANDIDATES, TO BE FORMALLY ELECTED BY CROATIA'S NEW ASSEMBLY IN MAY, INCLUDE 11 CROATS, POSSIBLY ONE SERB, AND ONE WHO IS HALF SERB AND HALF CROAT. MOST OF CROATIA'S REGIONS REPRESENTED. CANDIDATES, AVERAGING OVER 55 YEARS OF AGE, UNDERLINE REMARKABLE DURABILITY AND VITALITY OF PARTISAN MOVEMENT. ALL NOMINATED WERE PARTISANS AND ALL HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN PUBLIC OR QUASI-PUBLIC LIFE SINCE 1945. NAMING OF MRS. PLANINC AS CANDIDATE FOR SEAT IN CROATIA'S PRESIDENCY WOULD APPEAR CONFIRM LOCAL REPORTS THAT SHE WILL CARRY ON AT HELM CROATIA'S PARTY AFTER APRIL CONGRESS, BECAUSE ONE OF PRESIDENCY'S NINE SEATS DESIGNATED EX OFFICIO FOR PRESIDENT CC OF LCC. POSSIBILITY THAT VRHOVEC WOULD BE NAMED TO BECOME PRESIDENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD BEEN BRUITED, BUT SOME RESERVATIONS HEARD THIS REGARD. VRHOVEC REPORTEDLY LACKS BROAD EXPERIENCE IN ECONOMIC AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXECUTIVE BRANCH AFFAIRS IN GENERAL, WHICH DESIRABLE IN THIS POSITION. QUESTION IS WHETHER WELL-QUALIFIED PERISIN MAY BE BEING SHIFTED TO MORE SENIOR BUT POSSIBLY LESS SIGNIFICANT POSITION IN ORDER ENABLE FIGURE MORE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH PARTY AFFAIRS TAKE OVER LEADERSHIP OF REPUBLIC'S EXECUTIVE BRANCH. IN ANY EVENT, VRHOVEC NOMINATION SERVES REEMPHASIZE LEADING ROLE PRESCRIBED FOR PARTY IN ALL ASPECTS REPUBLIC'S LIFE. (IN SLOVENIA, PARTY SECRETARY ANDREJ MARINC TOOK OVER AS PRESIDENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 1972.) TO REPLACE VRHOVEC AS SECRETARY EC OF CC OF LCC NAME OF DR. DUSAN DRAGOSAVAC BEING MENTIONED BY LOCAL SOURCES. DRAGOSAVAC, 54, SERB, FROM GOSPIC, IS CURRENTLY DEPUTY SECRETARY EC OF CC OF LCC. FURTHER UNDERLINING LIKELIHOOD CONTINUITY WITHIN RANKS CROATIA'S LEADERSHIP, SAME SOURCES PREDICT JURE BILIC, 52, CROAT, FROM MAKARSKA (DALMATIA), WILL REMAIN IN CROATIA'S

SEAT ON EB OF PRESIDUM LCY.

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